

Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment (GCBVI)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2021

Members Present

Bob Kresmer, Chair
Amy Porterfield
Nathan Pullen
Bea Shapiro
Ted Chittenden

Members Absent

David Steinmetz

Staff Present

Lindsey Powers

Guests Present

John McCann

Call to Order and Introductions

Bob Kresmer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm. Introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Approval of January 20, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Ted Chittenden moved to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. Bea Shapiro seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Executive Committee Member Update

Bob Kresmer stated that Janet Fisher had contacted him regarding an issue with employment. Mr. Kresmer stated that Janet Fisher indicated that individuals interested in obtaining employment with the state were required to submit a copy of their driver's license even if driving was not an essential duty of the job. Bob Kresmer stated the driver's license information was used to perform background checks on potential employees with the state. Bob Kresmer stated the council had brought up the issue with state in the past and noted that he would like to bring up the issue with the council for recommendations. Amy Porterfield stated that contractors with the state

were not required to submit a copy of a driver's license and were still able to undergo background checks. Bob Kresmer stated the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) made that requirement. Amy Porterfield stated she would contact Christina Corieri, Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor, regarding who would be the appropriate contact regarding this issue.

Amy Porterfield stated the COVID-19 Task Force continued to meet, although not as frequently. Ms. Porterfield stated the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) portal continued to be updated weekly, although that often created issues, which were fixed quickly. Amy Porterfield stated that some state vaccination sites had closed and it was not necessary to make appointments to get the COVID vaccine as more pharmacies and doctors began offering the vaccine more. Amy Porterfield stated that some organizations held private vaccination events, such as SAAVI Services for the Blind and Ability 360. Amy Porterfield stated the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) had a partnership with Lyft to offer free transportation to individuals to get the vaccine. She noted that anyone interested in accessing Lyft, to contact Donald Porterfield, who would supply the code. Bob Kresmer inquired whether the state vaccination sites would remain open to accommodate students and children, who were now eligible to obtain the vaccine. Amy Porterfield stated the COVID-19 Task Force would meet the following week, and she would inquire, although her understanding was that everyone was encouraged to obtain the vaccine through pharmacies and doctor's offices.

Amy Porterfield stated the Independent Living Blind (ILB) bill for an additional \$500,000 was not moving through the House. Amy Porterfield stated the consumer groups were beginning to campaign for the Chairs of the Appropriations Committee to push for that bill. Amy Porterfield stated she would share that information with Ted Chittenden to be shared with the Arizona Council of the Blind (AzCB). Ted Chittenden inquired whether the Governor was in support of the bill. Amy Porterfield stated the Governor's Office had indicated that the Governor was not against the bill, and council members could advocate for the bill on behalf of consumer groups or members of the community.

Committee Chair Reports and Recommendations

Ted Chittenden stated he reviewed some information regarding the IL Committee's activities and was interested in monitoring the state's activities regarding IL services, and advocating for more services in rural areas. Mr. Chittenden stated he located the Final ILB Guidelines from 2016 and inquired whether that would be appropriate for the committee to review. Bob Kresmer stated the ILB Guidelines would likely have been updated since

then, and suggested Mr. Chittenden request that information from Brian Dulude. Bob Kresmer stated that not all the additional ILB funding would go to client services but would likely be used to hire more staff in rural areas. Bob Kresmer stated the council had previous discussions with Brian Dulude regarding how much funding would go to vendors providing ILB services compared to ILB staff.

Council Membership Discussion

Bob Kresmer stated that with the resignation from Terri Hedgpeth, there was a vacancy for a Representative of the Community and a Vice Chair. Mr. Kresmer stated that council members were welcome to make any recommendations for potential council members or to fill the Vice Chair position. Bob Kresmer inquired whether there were any pending applications for the council. Lindsey Powers stated she had not received Allan Curry's application for reappointment. Ted Chittenden recommended that John McCann be considered for the Vice Chair position. Bea Shapiro recommended that David Steinmetz be considered as Vice Chair for the council. Amy Porterfield stated she would think about the open position and send her recommendations to Bob Kresmer.

Bob Kresmer stated the council also needed AzCB and NFB representatives as well as representatives from the Blinded Veterans Association. Mr. Kresmer stated council also needed a parent of a blind of a visually impaired child and a general community member to fill Ms. Hedgpeth's position. Bob Kresmer encouraged council members to continue to recruit members from the community who would be appropriate council members.

Agenda Items and Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting date of the Executive Committee would be determined.

Announcements

John McCann commended the NFB for their advocacy efforts regarding the additional ILB funding, and the AzCB would advocate for that funding as well.

Public Comment

A call to the public was made with no response's forthcoming.

Adjournment of Meeting

Ted Chittenden motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bea Shapiro seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.